

December 15, 2024

10:00AM

Third Sunday of Advent - *Joy*

United Christian Church of Austin

-- GATHERING --

INTROIT

“Christmas Bell Tidings”

UCC Chancel Choir

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

(See pages 10-11 for printed announcements.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP & CANDLE LIGHTING**

Jennifer Ells

One: When we look around, we see sadness, families who have lost loved ones, people in prison, people who are isolated and feel on their own...

One: When we look around, we see grief, people dreading the holidays because of painful memories, or because they don't want to spend another Christmas alone...

One: In the face of sadness,

All: we light a candle of joy...

One: In the face of grief, in the face of loss,

All: we light a candle of joy...

One: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world with joy.

One: May the light from this candle say to all that God's joy is coming, on earth as it is in heaven.

All: Let us not be afraid, God's joy is at hand!

*OPENING HYMN

“I Come With Joy”

Chalice Hymnal #420, vv.1, 2, 3, and 5

**1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**

**2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**

**3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**

**5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world,
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**

Words: Brian Wren, 1969; rev. 1982, 1995, © 1971 by Hope Publishing Co.

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, Southern Harmony, 1835, Harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987, © 1989 The United
Methodist Publishing House

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Ann Hayden, *Liturgist*

* Asterisk signifies the people are invited to rise in body or Spirit.

Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

When we admit the places where we are broken and ask for repair, we join in the act of reconciliation, and hope for new life. Let us say together our prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Spark of All there is,
we praise you for sending light into this world.
We confess that we live as though
the light had never defeated darkness.
We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent
to be among us and to live in us.
We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season
and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts.
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your spirit.
Prepare us for Christ's return.
Help us rejoice in the light
so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*The people are invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another,
such as a greeting, handshake, etc.*

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

-- THE WORD --

OUTREACH COLLECTION

"Come, Celebrate"

Come, cel-e-brate, come and pre-pare for the com-ing of joy; the
 joy of all cre-a-tion, for ev-'ry time and place.
 Born ma-ny years a-go, ma-ny miles a-way still
 cal-ling all to come a-long and cel-e-brate the day! So
 come, cel-e-brate, come and pre-pare for the com-ing of
 joy this day and ev-'ry day!

Words and Music: Tom Mitchell. ©2013 All rights reserved.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Emily Jamison Guerrero
Director of Children's Ministries

CHILDREN'S SENDING SONG

"Come, O Jesus, Come"
To the tune of "Peace, Salaam, Shalom"

Come, O Jesus, Come.
Come, O Jesus, Come.
Come, O Jesus, Come.
Come, O Jesus, Come. (2x)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1: 46b-55
 Ann Hayden, *Liturgist*

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"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely, from
now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the
lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his
descendants forever."

One: May we be granted wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Amen.

SERMON

"Joy"

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

The New Century Hymnal, #119 vv 1,2, 5

**1 My soul gives glory to my God, my heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.**

**2 My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God's name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.**

**5 Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises with present faithfulness.**

Words: Miriam Therese Winter (1987) Music: MORNING SONG, melody from *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816.
Harm., C. Winfred Douglas (1940) © 1995 *The New Century Hymnal*

-- PRAYER TIME --

PASTORAL PRAYER

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

As petitions conclude, each will end with:

One: O Lord,

All: hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who is in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

-- OFFERTORY --

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY

Sue Lucas and Celia Roise, *Flute*

*We invite you to partner with us in mission and ministries.
Offering plates will be passed around the Sanctuary at this time.*

Alternatively, you may give online at uccaustin.org/give

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or scan the QR codes in the pew to be connected to giving websites.

*It is through your generosity that this exceptional community
of friendship, faith, and service is possible.*

***DOXOLOGY “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly hosts:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674, alt.; Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1551
© 1995 Chalice Hymnal

— — COMMUNION — —

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE	Janet Maykus, <i>Pastor</i>
WORDS OF INSTITUTION	Janet Maykus, <i>Pastor</i>
TABLE BLESSING	Diane Baker, <i>Deacon</i>
CALL TO THE TABLE	Janet Maykus, <i>Pastor</i>

All are now invited to come forward down the center aisle for communion.

You may open your hands for a piece of bread from the common loaf.

*The deacons hold split chalices that have both **RED** wine and **WHITE** grape juice
in them. Please use what is right for you.*

*Alternatively, single-serve communion kits with gluten-free wafers and juice
are available in the tray that I will be holding, if that works best for you.*

Please return to your seats by the side aisles.

A deacon will come around to serve any who remain seated.

You may also use the time to light a candle of prayer.

Come now, for the table is ready.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Julie Stiles, *Bowed Psaltery*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

— — WE GO OUT TO SERVE — —

*SENDING HYMN

“People, Look East”

Chalice Hymnal #142, vv. 1-3

**1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.**

**Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.**

**People, look east, and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

**2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.**

**Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.**

**People, look east, and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

**3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.**

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Bolded text indicates spoken or sung by the congregation.

**People, look east, and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.**

Words: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1928, © 1957 Harold Ober Associates, Inc.; Music: BESANÇON, Traditional French Carol, harm. Martin Shaw, 1928, used by permission of Oxford University Press.

***BENEDICTION/SENDING**

Janet Maykus, *Pastor*

One: As our Sunday worship ends,
ALL: Let our service begin!

POSTLUDE

Nick Jimenez, *Accompanist*

Welcoming a New Member

Chalice Hymnal #341

Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus the Christ,
we gladly welcome you into this community of faith,
enfolding you with our love
and committing ourselves to your care.
In the power of God's Spirit
let us mutually encourage each other to trust God
and strengthen one another to serve others,
that Christ's church may in all things stand faithful.

-- ANNOUNCEMENTS --

Sunday, December 15: Third Sunday of Advent

- 10am: Hybrid Worship Service
- 11:15am: Sunday Morning Adult Discussion Class
- 11:30am: Young-ish Adults Christmas Celebration
- 5:30pm: Sunday Evening Small Group
- 5:30pm: Youth Group - Christmas Party

Monday, December 16

- 6pm: Finance Committee Meeting
- 6:30pm: Executive Committee Meeting
- 7:10pm: Full Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 17

- 8am: Breakfast Fellowship at Jim's on 183
- 1pm: Tuesday Book Group (Zoom link in Friday newsletter)

Thursday, December 19

- 6:30pm: Handbell Practice

Friday, December 20

- 7pm: Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 10am: Hybrid Worship Service
- 11:15am: Reception After Christmas Pageant

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— — ANNOUNCEMENTS — —

Tuesday, December 24

- 6m: Christmas Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day

Church Office Closed